

acute, but not loud, rapidly reiterated cry. They are active and busily seek for small insects, chiefly Coleoptera, in the coarse herbage. The iris in all is rusty red; the tongue is divided and terminates in bristly points. These reed birds, which are very numerous both in species and individuals, on the borders of lakes in the provinces north of the Plata, appear to supply in South America, the various *Sylviæ*, which frequent similar stations in Europe.

5. *SYNALLAXIS FLAVOGULARIS*. Gould.

Plate XXIV.

S. supra fuscuscenti cinereus, infra cinereo-fuscus; remigibus obscurè fuscis, basi obscurè rufis; caudæ plumis sex mediis nigro-fuscis, externis ferrugineis; genis gulâque flavescentibus, plumis singulis apice obscurè fuscis.

Long. tot. $6\frac{1}{2}$ unc; rost. $\frac{3}{4}$; alæ, $2\frac{1}{2}$; caudæ, $3\frac{3}{8}$; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$;

Head and all the upper surface, brown; primaries, dark brown, with the basal portions rufous; six central tail-feathers, blackish brown; the remainder ferruginous; sides of the face and throat yellowish, with the tip of each feather dark brown; the remainder of the under surface, greyish brown; bill and feet, dark brown.

Habitat, Patagonia.

My specimens were obtained at Bahia Blanca and at Santa Cruz, two extreme parts of Patagonia. It frequents the thinly scattered thickets on the arid plains: the hind claw of its foot is not produced as in *S. rufogularis*, and it lives less on the ground.

6. *SYNALLAXIS BRUNNEA*. Gould.

S. pallide rubro fusca; primariis secundariisque rufis apice fuscis; caudæ plumis quatuor mediis nigrescenti fuscis, duabus proximis ferrugineo fuscis internè nigrescenti-marginatis, duabus extimis ferrugineo fuscis; genis, gulâ abdomineque medio albescentibus; hypochondriis cinereis.

Long. tot. $5\frac{1}{2}$ unc; rost. $\frac{3}{4}$; alæ, $2\frac{3}{4}$; caudæ, $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Head and all the upper surface pale reddish brown; primaries and secondaries, brown at the tip and rufous at the base; four central tail feathers, blackish brown; the next on each side rusty brown, margined internally with blackish brown; the two lateral feathers wholly rusty brown; sides of the face, throat, and centre of the abdomen, whitish; flanks cinereous; bill and feet brown.

Habitat, Port Desire, Patagonia. (*January*.)

This little bird frequents the thickets in the dry valleys near Port Desire. It often flies from bush to bush, and its habits are nearly like those of the rest of the genus. From its tail feathers, however, being little used, and the tarsi being slightly elongated, I suppose it lives chiefly on the ground. I may observe, that this species comes nearest to *S. flavogularis*, but that in the form of its tail, straightness of bill, and kind of plumage, it departs from *Synallaxis*, and approaches *Eremobius*.

7. *SYNALLAXIS ÆGITHALOIDES*. Kittl.

S. Ægithaloides. Kittl. Mem. de l'Acad. 11. pl. vii.—Vog. von Chili, p. 15, pl. vii.

This bird is common throughout Patagonia and Central Chile, being found wherever thickets grow on a rocky or dry soil. It sometimes moves about in small flocks. Its habits, as Kittlitz remarks, resemble in many respects, those of a titmouse (*Parus*); but there is one remarkable point of difference, namely, that this bird is able to *run* very quickly on the ground. It does not always do so, but often hops about with great activity; nevertheless, I repeat, I have distinctly seen it running very quickly amongst the thickets. When hopping from twig to twig, it does not use its long tail, any more than the long-tailed titmouse (*Parus caudatus*) of Europe. It utters a harsh, shrill, quickly reiterated cry, like so many other species of this genus and the allied ones. In Chile, I several times saw a very large cylindrical nest, built of prickly twigs of the mimosa, and placed in the middle of a thorn-bearing bush, with its mouth at the upper extremity; I was assured by the country people, that although so very large, it belonged to this little bird.* This kind of nidification, the habit of feeding on the ground, and the length of acuminate tail, are points of resemblance with *S. major*.

8. *SYNALLAXIS RUFICAPILLA*. Vieill.

Synallaxis ruficapilla. Vieill. Gal. des Ois. pl. lxxiv.

Parulus ruficeps. Spix. Av. Sp. Nov. tom. 1. p. 84, t. lxxxvi. f. 1. m. f. 2. fem.

Sphenura ruficeps. Licht. Ver. p. 42.

My specimens were obtained at Maldonado, (June) where it was rare, and at Buenos Ayres. Near Santa Fè, in Entre Rios, 3° northward, it was common: Spix found it near the Rio San Francisco in Brazil. Iris yellowish red; legs with faint tinge of blue; tongue terminated in bristly points, not deeply bifid. This *Synallaxis* approaches in character *Amumbius ruber*. Habits similar to those of *S. maluroides*.

* Molina, in his account of Chile, attributes this nest, I believe, through an error, to *Mimus thenca*.